

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: GDS (DECLASSIFY AFTER 12/31/78)

TAGS: PFOR PINT AV SC UK

SUBJ: ANGUILLA: BRADSHAW/HMG TALKS IN BARBADOS

REF: BTN 0761

SUMMARY: BRITISH REGARD RECENT TALKS ON BREAKAWAY ANGUILLA BETWEEN SENIOR HMG REP AND ST. KITTS PREMIER ROBERT BRADSHAW AS "SATISFACTORY." BRADSHAW APPEARED TO RECOGNIZE NECESSITY FOR COMPROMISE SOLUTION AND AGREED TO HMG REQUEST TO MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT CONCEDING NEED FOR SOME AUTONOMY FOR ANGUILLA BY MAY 22 WHEN HMG NEXT MEETS WITH ANGUILLA LEADER WEBSTER. IF BRADSHAW MAKES STATEMENT HMG INTENDS PUSH FOR COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT. DESPITE APPARENT PROGRESS, MANY PROBLEMS REMAIN BEFORE THOSE INVOLVED CAN SETTLE CONSTITUTIONAL FUTURE OF ANGUILLA. END SUMMARY.

1. BRITISH HERE REGARD RECENT TALKS ON BREAKAWAY ANGUILLA BETWEEN ST. KITTS/NEVIS/ANGUILLA PREMIER ROBERT BRADSHAW AND FOREIGN COMMONWEALTH OFFICE PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY JOAN LESTOR AS "SATISFACTORY" FROM HMG POINT OF VIEW. DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER ROBERT DEBURLET TOLD EMBOFFS THAT ANGUILLA LEADER RONALD WEBSTER AND HIS FOLLOWERS CONTINUE TO WANT COMPLETE SEPARATION FROM ST. KITTS AND BRADSHAW GOVERNMENT, WHILE LATTER WISHES TO RETAIN ISLAND AS INTEGRAL PART OF TRIPARTITE STATE. ACCORDING TO THE BRITISH, WEBSTER HAS NOW THREATENED UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF

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INDEPENDENCE UNLESS HMG PUTS FORTH PROPOSAL RE ANGUILLA'S CON-

STITUTIONAL FUTURE BY MAY 30. LESTOR-BRADSHAW TALKS REPRESENT ONGOING HMG EFFORT TO FIND COMPROMISE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES.

2. LESTOR EMPHASIZED TO BRADSHAW IMPORTANCE OF MAKING SOME CONCESSIONS TO REACH ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE AND INFORMED HIM THAT, IN ABSENCE OF MUTUALLY AGREEABLE SETTLEMENT, HMG WOULD ACT UNILATERALLY TO RESOLVE DISPUTE. BRADSHAW, AT LEAST INITIALLY, SEEMED TO BE WILLING TO CONCEDE SOME DEGREE OF AUTONOMY TO ANGUILLA AND ACCEDED TO HMG REQUEST TO MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT TO THIS EFFECT BY MAY 22, APPROXIMATE DATE OF NEXT LESTOR-WEBSTER TALKS. (IT HAS JUST BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT WEBSTER IS GOING TO LONDON FOR TALKS WITH LESTOR ON MAY 20.) SHOULD BRADSHAW MAKE REQUESTED STATEMENT RE ANGUILLA AUTONOMY AND TIME PERMIT, HMG INTENDS TO PRESENT WEBSTER WITH A JOINT GOSK-HMG COMPROMISE PROPOSAL.

3. LATER ON INTALKS WITH LESTOR, BRADSHAW APPEARED TO BECOME MORE RIGID AND LESS INCLINED TO SEEK COMPROMISE. HE IDENTIFIED PROBLEM AREAS SUCH AS HIS DESIRE THAT ANY ANGUILLA AUTONOMY MATTER SHOULD TAKE FORM OF ORDER IN COUNCIL, WHEREAS HMG CONTENTS THAT ACT OF PARLIAMENT WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE VEHICLE. BRADSHAW ALSO URGED HMG TO USE LEVERAGE OF ITS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ANGUILLA TO HELP REACH SETTLEMENT (REFTEL). HMG ASKED ITS REPRESENTATIVE TO GOSK TO PURSUE WITH BRADSHAW MATTER OF ANGUILLA AUTONOMY STATEMENT DURING WEEK OF MARCH 12 AND IS AWAITING RESPONSE FROM BRADSHAW BEFORE MAKING ANY FURTHER MOVES VIS-A-VIS WEBSTER.

4. APPARENTLY DOG ISLAND PROPOSAL WAS NOT RAISED AT BRADSHAW LESTOR TALKS, ALTHOUGH DEBURET NOTED THAT FINANCIAL INDUCEMENTS PROMISED TO ANGUILLA WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO WEBSTER'S OBSTINANCY IN TALKS WITH HMG.

5. COMMENT: BRADSHAW-LESTOR TALKS CLEARLY REPRESENT PROGRESS BUT CONSTITUTIONAL FUTURE OF ANGUILLA IS STILL FAR FROM SETTLED. FORMIDABLE OBSTACLES REMAIN FOR ALL PARTIES. WEBSTER ET AL HAVE MADE IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT THEY WANT NO PART OF BRADSHAW GOVERNMENT, WHILE LATTER IS RELUCTANT TO BE TOO GENEROUS IN CONCESSIONS TO ANGUILLA FOR FEAR OF INSPIRING DEMANDS FOR SIMILAR TREATMENT FROM DISCONTENTED NEVIS. FURTHERMORE, IN CONVERSATION WITH ME REPORTED REFTEL, BRADSHAW MADE IT CLEAR HE UNWILLING
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MEET ANGUILLA'S DEMAND FOR AUTONOMY BY CHANGING ST. KITTS CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE FOR FEDERATED RATHER THAN A UNITARY STATE. HMG REMAINS SENSITIVE TO MEDIA REACTION AND TO COLLECTIVE EXPRESSED DESIRE OF CARICOM FOR HMG TO "COOPERATE WITH COMMUNITY" IN EFFORT TO RESOLVE DISPUTE. END COMMENT.
BRITTON

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